

U.N. resumes debate on Soviet Jews

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Settlement of Soviet Jews in the Israeli-occupied territories drew sharp criticism Tuesday in the Security Council as Arab and non-Arab countries warned it jeopardizes the Middle East peace process. The Security Council planned to convene another session Wednesday to continue discussions on Soviet emigration to the occupied lands. Amr Moussa, Egypt's permanent representative to the United Nations, said the international community was duty-bound to "uphold the endeavours for peace in the Middle East at this critical state in the process." He said Egypt believes that immigration to Israel, coupled with settling Israeli civilians in the occupied territories, "constitutes a serious threat to Middle East peace prospects." Moussa said the United States and the Soviet Union have key roles to play in promoting peace in the region and called on them to ensure that the rights of the Palestinian people shall not be jeopardized. "We must not allow anyone to waste this unique opportunity to achieve tangible progress towards a reconciliation between the Jewish and Palestinian nations," Moussa said.

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Mubarak meets SPLA envoy

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who has pledged to mediate in Sudan's civil war, met a representative of the Sudanese rebels Tuesday, presidential sources said. Lam Ako, the number three commander of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), handed Mubarak a letter from rebel chief John Garang, the sources said.

Rifai on lecture tour in U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Tuesday left for the United States on a three-week lecture tour, a source close to the ex-prime minister said. Among the universities where Rifai is scheduled to address students of graduate level are Harvard University and the University of Boston, the source said.

Sudan releases Reuter correspondent

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan released Hamza Hendawi, Reuters correspondent in Khartoum, Tuesday after four days in detention. Hendawi, an Egyptian, said he was given no explanation for his detention by the army-run security service. Sudanese authorities have issued no statement on the case. He was held by security men at Khartoum airport on his return from Cairo last Friday. "I was in no way ill-treated and interrogated only once. I was questioned about my personal life, professional contacts and in particular about a story I filed last month on Sudan-Egyptian relations," he said. On his release Hendawi, 33, was taken to the Egyptian embassy and handed over to Egyptian Consul General Ahmad Ragab. He was the second journalist to be held without explanation by Sudan. Last month British journalist Julian Ozanne, who reports for London's Financial Times and Sunday Correspondent, was held for eight days.

Moscow reduces staff at Beirut embassy

BEIRUT (R) — The Soviet Union has cut the number of its diplomats in Beirut after threats by a group to attack countries involved in the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel, diplomatic sources said Tuesday. They said the Soviet mission had sent home some of its diplomats and their families and had asked remaining staff to minimise their movements. Their report followed a threat on March 15 by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (JLP) to attack airlines and offices involved in the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel. A fire gutted the first floor of the Soviet embassy in west Beirut Friday. One person was killed.

Lebanese fighting kills two

BEIRUT (R) — Forces fighting for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave battled with rockets, tanks and artillery for three hours Tuesday, killing at least two people. Security sources said the fighting between troops of rebel General Michel Aoun and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) engulfed three residential areas of east Beirut. They said one of the combatants and a woman civilian were killed.

Rockets kill 27 in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Several rockets hit Kabul Tuesday, killing 27 people, Radio Kabul reported. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but the radio broadcast blamed U.S.-backed insurgents, who have been fighting for 12 years to topple the Communist governments in Kabul. The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said most of the dead were aboard a mini-bus that was hit with one of several rockets that landed in a busy residential district. Another 22 people were injured in the rocket barrage, reported Afghanistan's official radio.

U.N. chief arrives in Aqaba

AMMAN (Agencies) — The United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Aqaba Tuesday on a several-day private visit to Jordan in response to an invitation extended to him by His Majesty King Hussein.

Perez de Cuellar, who is accompanied by his wife, was received upon arrival by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations Abdullah Salih, the Aqaba district governor and the Aqaba Region Authority president.

The King is expected to hold talks with the U.N. chief during his stay here. High on the agenda for the talks are expected to be the Middle East peace efforts and the stalled Iran-Iraq negotiations after eight years of war.

Gulf peace

Perez de Cuellar is pressing for Iran and Iraq to accept his proposal for a two-month session of direct talks aimed at reaching a permanent peace settlement.

In a report released Monday at the U.N., Perez de Cuellar called for leaders of both countries to give added political impetus to the talks by indicating to each other their sincerity to restart the stalled negotiations.

The U.N. chief's report on the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group also urged the Security Council to renew the mandate of the force established to monitor

the past six months there was

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U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is received upon his arrival in Aqaba Tuesday by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem (Petra photo)

compliance with the Gulf war ceasefire and investigate violations of the truce that took effect in August 1988. The current six-month mandate for the U.N. observer group expires at the end of March, but its renewal is considered a routine matter.

Perez de Cuellar said that during the past six months there was

relative calm along the ceasefire line and a significant decline in the number of major truce violations.

But the secretary-general said problems continue in an area northeast of Basra referred to as no man's land.

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Arar expects extraordinary session; row with press remains unsolved

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A royal decree is expected to be issued soon allowing for an extraordinary session for the Lower House of Parliament as requested by the House in a memorandum to His Majesty King Hussein two days ago, House Speaker Suliman Arar said Tuesday.

Arar said he expected the extraordinary session to begin after 'Eid Al Fitr, which marks the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan and said that the extraordinary session was needed to allow the House to study various laws and issues.

Nearly two thirds of the 80-member Lower House signed the memorandum, which was sent to the King last Saturday. The present session adjourned on Monday night in line with the constitution which allows the first session to end no later than the end of March and a new session is not due until the end of October, but a Royal Decree can convene Parliament for an extraordinary session.

The Lower House which was

elected last November, Arar said, was able to make headway, thanks to close cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities.

He said that the deputies had succeeded in winning public freedoms, release of political detainees, and return of seized pass-ports.

Arar described cooperation between the government and the Lower House as excellent and said that the government had responded favourably to numerous requests put forth by the House in economic, social and political fields.

In his statement to Petra, Arar did not comment on the row between the House and the press which erupted Monday over attacks by some deputies against Jordanian newspapers which had published details of a "secret" parliamentary session last week.

The row, which climaxed in a decision by all Jordanian news-

papers to not cover the House's Monday session in the four dailies, started when parliamentary correspondents walked out of the session and staged a sit-in at the House's entrance to protest

(Continued on page 3)

Army rounds up Lithuania deserters; fears escalated

VILNIUS (Agencies) — Soviet soldiers Tuesday stormed two hospitals in Lithuania to seize Red Army deserters, the first violent action by Moscow since the Baltic republic declared independence two weeks ago.

Soviet authorities also closed Lithuania to foreign journalists, diplomats and businessmen.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said he feared the roundup of deserters could pre-serve a full-scale military intervention to crush the independence movement.

"It is obvious that the Soviet armed forces have been given permission to use violence," he said.

Witnesses said some of the deserters were beaten as they were taken from a psychiatric hospital in Vilnius, where they had taken refuge after their republic's parliament declared independence on March 11.

Blood was spattered on the hospital's front steps.

General Valentin Varennikov,

commander of Soviet land forces in Lithuania, said 23 deserters were apprehended. He said the deserters had become militants in the nationalist movement and were undergoing special training at one of the hospitals.

But Ceslovas Stankavicius, assistant deputy chairman of Lithuania's parliament, called the raids barbarism. Landsbergis said they were "open acts of aggression."

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yury Gromov said all foreigners were being asked to leave Lithuania and temporarily refrain from entering its territory.

Diplomats had already been banned from the breakaway re-public late last week, and journalists outside Lithuania were told they could not travel here.

Soviet Defense Minister Dimitry Yazov said the deserters must be taken back to their units but that the crisis would be solved without force.

"There has been no armed

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians, Israelis braced for Ramadan, Land Day protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

— Palestinians threw petrol bombs and burned tyres in Jerusalem Tuesday amid clashes in the Israeli-occupied territories marking the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan, police said.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), in a new leaflet, declared Ramadan a month of jihad against Israel. It also called for a general strike Friday to mark Land Day.

The United Leadership of the Uprising called for a week of escalation starting Tuesday, leading up to the March 30 anniversary of the 1976 killing by police of six Arabs in protests over land rights.

Violence began early when masked Palestinians threw two petrol bombs at Israeli motorists commuting to Jerusalem from the settlement town of Maale Adumim on a road that is site of frequent ambushes.

The explosions caused no damage or injury.

Teenagers later burned tyres in Arab Jerusalem's central Salaheddin shopping street and stoned and overturned Israeli cars. Police fired in the air and detained several suspects.

Palestinians reported clashes in the northern West Bank city of Nablus, where troops dispersed a march by about 200 women. At least five men were shot and wounded, hospital officials said.

In Beit Sahour, south of Jerusalem, demonstrating high school students stoned soldiers, who shot and seriously wounded a 17-year-old youth in the head, Palestinians said.

Clashes were also reported in Jenin. The army said it was checking the reports.

Israeli police cancelled leave and drafted some 2,000 reinforcements into Jerusalem to patrol the city Friday, when Land Day coincides with traditional Ramadan mass prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque.

Security sources said that like last year, army and police were expected to place the Gaza Strip under total curfew and bar Palestinians from leaving the West Bank or entering Jeru-

alem.

Leaders of the uprising said Monday the two parties vying to form Israel's next government were both plotting to deny Palestinian rights.

"The differences between Labour and Likud are nothing but tactical ones on how to deny our rights," the unified leadership of the uprising said in a leaflet.

The underground leaders welcomed the fall of the Israeli government as a sign of political crisis in Israel but said that both Labour and Likud opposed the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"The true yardstick of any government's commitment to peace lies in its acknowledgement of our people's national rights and recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the international conference," the leaflet said.

CAEU seeks to reverse Kuwaiti move to leave

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary-general Hassan Ibrahim said Tuesday the council was seeking Arab mediation to convince Kuwait to reconsider its recent decision to withdraw from the council following claims that it was ineffective in fulfilling its purpose behind its establishment.

Ibrahim said the council's secretariat, which is permanently based in Amman, has referred Kuwait's request to withdraw to member states "so that they can look into it and initiate the appropriate contacts so that Kuwait does not go through with its decision."

Ibrahim told the Jordan Times

Wednesday published details of the House's closed session which referred nine cases of financial and administrative corruption to the prosecutor general for investigation and possible prosecution.

He said the decision by a five-member investigation committee to seek prosecution of newspapers which published accounts of the "secret" session last Tuesday.

Although the committee's recommendation did not gain a majority vote as required by internal laws, 16 journalists walked out of the press chamber overlooking the floor after 31 deputies, mostly Islamists, voted in support of the recommendation.

The committee, comprising deputies Nayef Hadid, Mohammad Alawneh, Fouad Khalafat, Abdul Mumin Abu Zant and Atef Boush, recommended that the House refer the case to the prosecutor general to prosecute newspapers and agencies which carried the session's deliberations.

They cited article 38-B of the press and publications law which bars publications from publishing secret House sessions.

Al Rai and the Jordan Times

Wednesday published details of the House's closed session which referred nine cases of financial and administrative corruption to the prosecutor general for investigation and possible prosecution.

The sources said the withdrawal of Kuwait, along with its financial contribution amounting to 23 per cent of its budget, "puts the 13-member council in a difficult situation which makes it difficult to continue the work for which it was established."

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Saleem Al Fassam told the Jordan Times that Kuwait "had repeatedly opposed the way budget shares were distributed among members states to fulfill their commitments."

Fassam confirmed that upon a recommendation last week by the Kuwaiti ministries of finance and planning, the council of ministers decided to withdraw Kuwait from the council.

Kuwaiti sources said the CEAU "no more serves the goals of Arab development" and that "its work has started to clash with the goals of the Arab Economic Council," an Arab League institution.

The sources contended the council "has failed to achieve its designed goals and has become full of profiteering and bureaucracies which amount to a masked unemployment rather than productive offices."

The sources pointed out that the Arab League "is currently in the process of reconsidering several of its institutions with the aim of restructuring them or supporting them after directing criticism against their work, including the CEAU."

The sources said the United States was partly to blame for the flood of Soviet Jews to Israel and the possibility of them settling in the West Bank.

The doors for immigration have been closed for these immigrants in America and in other countries, he said.

Referring to the revolt against Indian rule in Kashmir, which is claimed by both predominantly

Peres: Either me or polls

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Labour-Party leader Shimon Peres said Tuesday that if he fails to form a new government, he will push for early elections rather than give the rival Likud bloc a shot at putting together a coalition.

Peres spoke a day after he failed to pick up a crucial endorsement from Rabbi Eliezer Schach, the spiritual leader of two small ultra-orthodox religious parties. Labour needs the parties' support to secure a majority in the 120-member parliament.

In his speech Monday night, Schach sharply attacked the centre-left Labour Party, saying it had failed to keep Israel on the path of Judaism.

Labour has severed the link, severed itself from the Torah, from the Sabbath and the past, the 93-year-old Schach told 12,000 cheering, black-hatted followers in a Tel Aviv basketball stadium.

Political analysis said Schach's remarks made it unlikely that the ultra-orthodox Degel Hatorah and Shas parties loyal to Schach would leave the Likud camp and join a Peres-led government.

Both Labour and Likud claim the support of 60 members of parliament. To break the tie, Peres needs to win over at least one of the six legislators from Shas and two from Degel Hatorah.

"If it is true what the commentators are saying, we basically have to hold new elections," Peres told Israel Radio.

He added, however, that he would continue his efforts to form a new government.

But caretaker Prime Minister

Yitzhak Shamir, head of Likud, told reporters Tuesday that he felt Likud stood a good chance of forming the next government and that he opposed early elections.

"I don't think it's healthy for a country to hold elections in such short periods of time," Shamir said. The last elections were a year and a half ago.

Labour Party Chairman Micha Harish also issued a warning that new elections might be needed.

"The mood in the Labour Party is — and this has been my view for some time — that if we get into deadlock... the other option is to go to elections," Harish told Israeli Radio.

Peres has up to five more weeks to form a government.

Harish said if Peres could not gain support from smaller parties to secure a majority in the Knesset, Israel should hold its second national election in two years.

"The Labour Party then prefers to give to the people of Israel the future of this country," Harish said.

The party chairman, reflecting the broad Labour centre

Win some, lose some; you can't please all the people all the time

Parliament adjourns after winning freedoms

By Rana Sabagh

Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan's new parliament went into recess Tuesday after four months in which it consolidated democratic changes but disappointed voters who thought it could work economic miracles.

"People want freedom but they also want economic recovery and progress," Arab nationalist deputy Salim Zoubi told Reuters. "Many of them feel democracy has not brought them either. They are worried by rising food prices and our inability to help."

Lower House Speaker Suleiman Arar said the assembly had asked His Majesty King Hussein to convene an extraordinary session after the Holy Month of Ramadan, which began Tuesday, to catch up on a backlog of work on legislation.

The 80-seat House, dominated by Muslim fundamentalists, was chosen in November in Jordan's first parliamentary elections in 22 years. The King

agreed to elections after April price riots showed people had lost confidence in the government.

The new House has passed the government to grant many of the political freedoms demanded during the election campaign, and in return has backed an austerity plan agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Last week the House opened the sensitive dossier of government corruption and many deputies say they want to pursue their investigation "no matter where it leads."

Prime Minister Mudar Badran has accepted the assembly's request to refer nine state contracts to the public prosecutor.

In a bizarre twist, Parliament turned on the local press for reporting the proceedings of a secret house session in which the nine contracts, and 19 others also under review, were named.

For the last two days local

journalists have refused to cover parliamentary affairs in protest to the criticism.

Deputies interviewed by Reuters said the performance of the new Parliament was reasonable but much had yet to be done.

"Given our short life span, we have achieved a lot since November," said Deputy Taher Al Masri, a former foreign minister.

"Apart from (progress on) freedoms, Parliament has managed to act as an independent branch of power in line with public demands," he said. "Now we have to focus on setting up political parties and try to improve our performance as legislators."

Abdul Latif Arabiyat, spokesman for the 22-member Muslim Brotherhood Bloc, said social changes, as well as legislation and democratic freedoms, were needed to remove deep-rooted corruption and administrative abuse.

"But the changes are in the

right direction because democratisation will help solve many of our problems," he said.

Since December the government has removed work and travel bans on political activists, returned confiscated passports, freed political detainees and eased controls on the media.

It has promised to scrap Martial Law, imposed in 1967, by June, and to abolish a 1985 defence law which gives security officials wide powers.

King Hussein has promised a national charter that would set guidelines for multi-party political life and officials say he will soon appoint a Royal commission to write it.

Parliament has found it easier to win political concessions than to come up with solutions to economic difficulties.

Jordan is struggling with an \$8-billion foreign debt, 20 per cent unemployment and inflation of 26 per cent in 1989.

"The problems challenging

us cannot be solved in four months," said leftist deputy Deeb Marji. "Parliament, government, regime and people are all in the same boat."

Some deputies said the absence of political parties and the inexperience of some members made debates clumsy, and complained that they had no money to hire research staff.

The Parliament devoted much time to debates on whether to vote confidence in the government and the 1990 budget, but passed relatively little legislation.

"Some deputies who never held a political or administrative position understood democracy as the right to say anything without regard to the consequences," said Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Bagi Gammou, a deputy since 1986.

"But deputies are gradually acquiring experience, facing reality and understanding that their role is limited to legislation," he said.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday presents a Jordanian artist, with an award as part of the Jordan Artist Association's efforts to honour the Kingdom's artists (Petra photo)

Jordan honours artists

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday patronised

a ceremony held by the Jordanian Artists Association (JAA) on the occasion of the International Theatre Day to honour pioneering artists in Jordan.

Addressing the celebration, JAA President Mahmoud Al Ziyoudi reviewed the development of the theatre in Jordan and noted the great contributions made by Jordanian artists to

Arab artistic festivals.

Ziyoudi called for approving the JAA's law after endorsement by the Parliament. He also called for covering Jordanian artists with medical insurance, social security and pension schemes.

The celebration included a pantomime performance in honour of the Queen.

At the end of the ceremony, Queen Noor presented certificates of appreciation and awards

to 22 pioneering artists, including the parents of two deceased artists, in recognition of their contribution to the advancement of theatre in Jordan.

The ceremony was attended by the information and culture ministers, and the chairman and members of the JAA.

To mark the occasion, the Ministry of Culture will organise a play at Usama Al Mashini Theatre Wednesday.

Facilities in place for transit pilgrims

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Fagir returned to Amman Tuesday following a visit to Turkey where he discussed matters related to facilities offered to Turkish Muslims on their way to perform pilgrimage in Mecca through Jordan.

The Turks are usually housed at a pilgrim camp near the northern border city of Ramtha upon their arrival by land from Syria. The camp has been provided with all essential services.

Fagir said in a statement upon his return that he signed the minutes of an agreement with the head of religious affairs in Turkey providing for administrative and health services for the Turkish pilgrims upon passing through Jordan.

"In return for these services and the assignment of a plot of land for Turkish vehicles to park on, the Turkish government will pay JD 4 for each Turkish pilgrim and pilgrims from Turkey could be housed at the pilgrim camps in Ramtha or Maan," Fagir said.

In addition the Jordanian authorities will provide facilities for the medical missions accompanying the Turkish pilgrims at the two camps and will refer cases if need be to Jordanian hospitals, with the cost of the medical treatment to be covered by the Turkish government," Al Fagir said.

"This is not the sum total of what the kibbutzim have done in this country," Fagir said, referring to Schach's remarks. "They built the land, they settled it."

Yossi Sarid of the leftist Citizens Rights Movement argued that ultra-orthodox Jews, most of whom are exempt from army service, have done little for Israel.

ment in the four countries. Towards achieving this end, the conference has set up a five-member committee, grouping representatives from the four ACC states. The committee was entrusted with studying the investments laws in the four respective countries and working out a unified law that will be applicable to these countries.

The conference also approved the convening of a specialised symposium on promotion and development of exports in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The symposium will be held in Amman from Sept. 17-22.

The conference also decided to hold an Arab industrial conference for the ACC countries in Baghdad before the end of 1990.

ACC to establish holding company

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants in the third conference of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) chambers of industry, concluded three-day meetings in Sanaa and adopted a number of decisions aimed at enhancing industrial cooperation among the four ACC member states — Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt.

The conference, which was chaired by Khalid Abu Hassan, chairman of the Higher Council of the ACC Federations of Chambers of Industry and president of Amman Chamber of Industry, approved the formation of an ACC holding industrial company and endorsed the amendments proposed to its statute.

Participants also called for enacting a unified Arab investment law for encouraging investment.

Palestine envoy slams Soviet Jewish immigration

ZARQA (Petra) — Palestine Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim delivered a lecture in Zarqa Monday. In the lecture he tackled the question of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, describing it as part of a Zionist plan to evict the Arab population of Palestine and settle Jews in their place.

The lecture was delivered in the course of a Palestine National Week designed to gather support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

"The occupation authorities pursue plans to flood the Arab territories with Jews and set up settlements to absorb them,"

Abdul Rahim said. "The intifada, now in its third year, has succeeded in adversely affecting the Israeli economy which is heavily supported by the United States," he said.

Calling for further support for the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, the ambassador said the Palestinians hope they can return to their homeland in Palestine and set up an independent state.

The ambassador praised Jordan-Palestinian relations and His Majesty King Hussein's support for the endeavours of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Arar expects extraordinary session

(Continued from page 1)
Other newspapers followed suit.

Information Minister Ibrahim Izzedin, who was not present at the House Monday, arrived later during the sit-in and asked journalists to return inside to cover the session. He argued that instead of boycotting the session, "You can write about it." He said that despite the committee's recommendation, "there is nothing that calls for abandoning the session. This is democracy and you should lobby for your rights."

Deputies Fakhrin Kawa, Salem Zoubi, Latif Shbeilat, Tamer Masri, Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi, Hisham Sharabi, Fares Nabulsi and Mohammad Aleim and Minister of Labour and Deputy Qaseem Obeidat abandoned the session while it was in progress to try to mediate the return of journalists or to inquire about the cause of the protest. Arar also left the session to address the problem.

Arar said that the committee proposed to refer the case to the prosecutor general after failing to discover the sources that leaked the information. He said that "as long as the (press and publications) law is in place, anybody can seek prosecution of the press. This is a violation of the House's decisions and the law must take its course."

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Unfinished business

IT IS easy to sympathise with the call made by the Lower House of Parliament to convene a three-month extraordinary session starting May. The work load for the parliament is simply too great to be finished in two or three months' work a year. Judging by the number of deputies who have voiced support for the proposal of convening an extraordinary session, it would be difficult to deny the Parliament an added opportunity to work and serve their constituents for a longer period of time this year. Some of the items on the agenda are indeed pressing and controversial. There is no way to deal with such a remaining heavy work load in a democratic context except through the extension of the parliamentary sessions over and over again. After all the members of the Parliament were elected and are being paid to serve the people of Jordan not periodically but perpetually. The first ordinary session of the Parliament which has lasted for no more than 3 months may not have been perfect in every sense of the word, but it was a good beginning. The momentum of this beginning must not be allowed to get frustrated by a long interruption. As the next ordinary session of the Parliament is set for October, there will be almost half a year of unreasonable break in parliamentary life. The unfinished business of the newly elected Parliament is simply too large and too important to be left in a state of suspended animation for such a long period. The truth is there might be good grounds now to facilitate the extension of the ordinary sessions of the Parliament to an extent that our parliamentarians would remain preoccupied with the concerns of their respective constituencies for at least nine months of the year. Granted governing the country with the Parliament continually in session becomes more difficult and much more demanding. But this is the price of operational democracy. As the country has opted for a viable democratic way of life, it would be difficult to explain the interruption of this much sought after democracy by denying parliamentarians longer periods of time to serve the electorate.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

In its editorial Tuesday Al Ra'i daily discussed the current efforts to form an Israeli government, noting that what concerns the Arabs is not who will form a government but rather the Israeli leaders' orientation and whether they are inclined to make peace with the Arab Nation. The formation of a government is not a success in itself because both major parties, the Labour and the Likud, are merely concerned with their own interests no matter how long it takes to form a government and regardless of whether peace is achieved or not, the paper noted. It said that the Israelis are fond of playing the game of forming a government after strenuous efforts had been exerted and many difficulties had been overcome; and during the time of behind-the-scene negotiations plans for setting up Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands are implemented. As long as Peres is totally relying on the religious and extremist parties to form a government, there is very little or no chance that his Labour Party will respect the international will or abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions that aim to achieve peace, simply because the extremists refuse such idea, the paper pointed out. There, it said, the only remaining feasible base for a successful government in Israel is through imposing the will of Zionism on the Arab Nation, and any attempt to depart from that policy can mean failure.

A columnist in Al Ra'i says that Jordan is craving for a new school of impeccable and clean politicians and statesmen who can operate the country's organisation with success. The people are not concerned with a mere exposition of names of those officials involved in corruption cases, but rather hope to have a political system that abides by democracy in word and in deed, Tareeq Masarweh writes. We are not trying to take revenge on individuals but we are trying to cleanse the political life in Jordan and rebuild confidence in the hearts of the Jordanian people and be able to deal with any future acts of corruption, and pillaging of the nation's wealth, the writer continues. The corrupt officials of Jordan, the writer notes, have created their own schools of thought that harbour enmity towards democracy and always trying to create crises between the regime and the people's forces and political groupings. He notes that these corrupt officials had always aimed to loot the country and sow seeds of corruption everywhere, a case that can be witnessed in many other developing countries which ended up being in deep debt and continually being ruled by martial law. Masarweh calls on the prosecutor general to study the cases fully and hear testimonies by numerous people before presenting his findings to the court that will try these officials, because the Jordanian people are seriously determined to pursue the road of democracy in all affairs.

Al Dastour daily on Tuesday voiced appreciation to the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran for its deep concern over the situation in the south and the ministers' visits to the governorates of Karak, Tafleah, and Maan to inspect the situation there. The paper said that the open discussion of various problems and requests by the local citizens and the government ministers is bound to help solve problems and enhance mutual confidence. Furthermore, the tour that lasted three days has no doubt given the ministers closer ideas about the economic and social situation and the areas which require immediate and urgent assistance. It said that the government is determined to extend all possible help to the local inhabitants as Prime Minister Badran promised and is now in position to do so, especially as allocations have been made to launch income-generating projects and development schemes.

Economic Forum

Tax effort in Jordan is excessive

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

TAX effort measures how much taxpayers give in way of taxes compared to their ability to pay, or it is the proportion of tax proceeds to the taxable capacity. If the former are identical with the latter, the proportion is one or 100 points. This could be treated as an index, whereby the points above 100 measure the extent to which citizens are overtaxed. An index of 100 or more means that any additional taxes may undermine production incentives and surely trigger tax evasion or increase it.

Of course, taxes in this context must refer to direct and indirect taxes paid by households and corporations to both, the central government and local governments and any other taxes paid to other public or semi-public bodies such as the universities in the case of Jordan. Social security contributions are also included because they are deductions from income and constitute a burden on the taxpayers similar to that ensuing from any other taxes.

difficult to tax if they do not fall, in the first place, in income brackets which qualify for tax exemption.

High tax effort. I used the above analysis in my Ph.D. thesis to construct a regression equation for the measurement of tax effort. According to this equation, Jordan's tax effort in 1988 reached 98, that is two points short of its taxable capacity, which translates into only six million dinars. This meagre sum shows how much taxes are increaseable before they start to strain the economy. According to a different equation developed by IMF, the tax effort index in Jordan had already reached 148 point in that year.

The fact that our tax effort had already reached or exceeded the 100 mark is most annoying because it is taking place at a time when we are in dire need to raise taxes in order to phase out the budget deficit as envisaged in Jordan's agreement with IMF under the economic correction program-

me. The Lower House of Parliament is so adamant in opposing tax increases, given the wild jump of inflation during the last eighteen months and the consequential drop in real incomes. The very recent debate in the House indicates that the rift between the deputies and the government on taxation policies is so deep that only through a lot of lobbying and arm-twisting that it might be redressed in line with the stance of the government. This poses a formidable dilemma for the executive who never conceived, in the wildest of dreams, such an opposition when the amendments to the effective income tax legislation were drafted last autumn. But there is still a way out, even without income tax increases. This might need considerable vision and courage.

The way out. Agricultural income has been exempt from income tax throughout the history of Jordan. An income of JD 2,000 originating in other economic sectors must pay but an income of say, JD 1 million emanating from agriculture is tax-exempt. This is an odd situation by all standards.

Once the agricultural income is created, its earner should have no objection to pay tax on it. Certainly, levying tax on agricultural incomes that exceed certain amounts is desirable under the present circumstances of economic stringency, at least until such circumstances change.

Customs duties. Levying higher tariff rates on imports is another outlet. It is particularly excellent because it does not only bring in more revenues but also protects domestic industries at a time when import substitution is badly needed. If they prohibit imports and thereby depress proceeds, high tariff will save foreign exchange and thus make more valuable contribution to economic adjustment. However, Jordan's accord with IMF prohibits the government from "imposing new import restric-

tions or intensifying existing ones for balance of payments reasons." This clause is sadly interpreted to mean that tariff rates must not be raised and no imports, whatsoever, must be banned. Actually this condition is a big black hole in that accord. The IMF should allow Jordan to get round it for one or two years and Jordan must work for that end.

Other outlets. Of course the best way out of the tax revenue impasse is to improve collection methods and combat tax evasion. This is easier said than done but not impossible in the longer run. The mistake that the amendments to the provisional tax law revealed was that our tax authorities had apparently believed that tax evasion could be tackled by decrees. Worse still, they believed that tax revenues could be boosted by higher taxes. They do not because they stimulate more tax evasion especially under high tax rates.

Palestinian and Israeli youths join in dialogue

By Rosalind Mandine

WASHINGTON — Although some people may use the word "conflict" when talking about the Middle East, some Palestinian and Israeli youths in Israel and the West Bank are finding that "dialogue" is a better word. One organisation that is helping these youths join in dialogue and understanding is Legacy International, a non-profit private American educational organisation.

Legacy promotes reconciliation and dialogue by creating linkages between Arab and Jewish youths and teaching them how to communicate with each other. They do this by sponsoring outreach and education programmes, training in communication and conflict resolution and dialogue workshops. Founded in 1977, Legacy is based in Alexandria, Virginia, and has a regional office in Jerusalem.

Legacy bases its work on the idea that "there is an inherent value in intercultural learning and that there is a possibility for achieving a common ground of understanding through bringing youths together" in a learning environment, explained Martin

Tillman, Legacy's director for International Education Services.

Many of the Arab and Jewish youths involved in Legacy programmes have had little or no contact with each other in their daily lives.

Before attending Legacy's summer programme in the United States last year, Saar Peer, a Jew from Tivon and Sameer Dajani, a Palestinian from the West Bank, had very little contact with or understanding of each other's communities. After their training, Dajani and Peer said they gained more of an understanding of each other's fears and points of view. Peer and Dajani plan to use the skills they acquired to promote peace between their communities, the young men told The Pittsburgh Press last summer.

One-to-one dialogue is especially important when a regional conflict appears to be "intractable" in terms of resolution on a government-to-government basis," Tillman noted. Bringing individuals together for "face-to-face encounters" will achieve "a measure of interaction not conceivable" on a larger level, he said.

When it comes to politics,

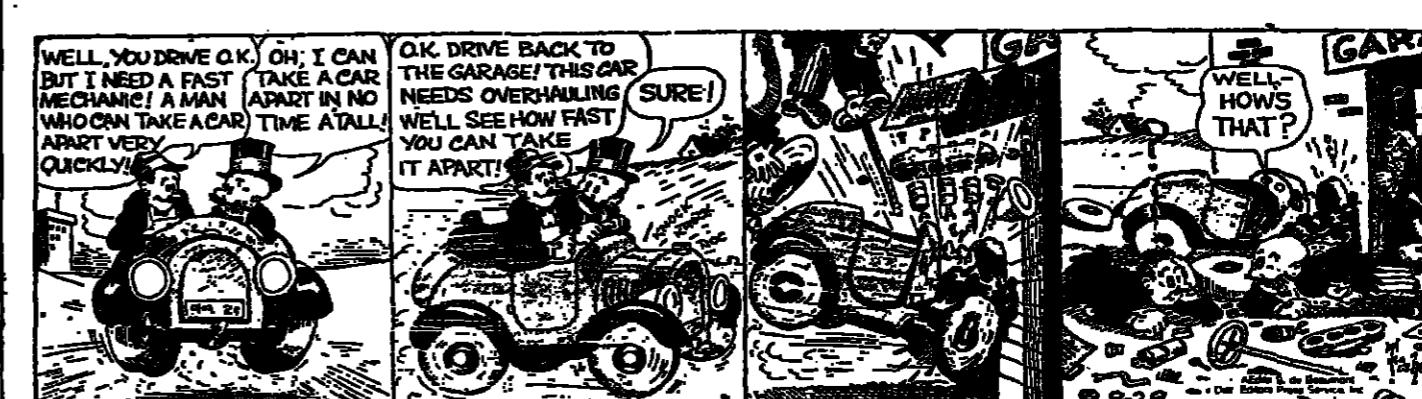
Legacy is non-positional, Tillman stressed. The organisation does not ignore politics, he added, but it is not interested in trying to convince anyone that one side is better than another.

Young people who take part in Legacy's programme are nominated by community organisations they already belong to, Tillman explained. These community groups are generally "engaged in dialogue and reconciliation," he added. This "self-selection" process contributes to Legacy's success in that these youths are "pre-disposed to interest in reconciliation and have already made some small steps in their own lives to understand and interact with Arabs and Jews where they are living," he said.

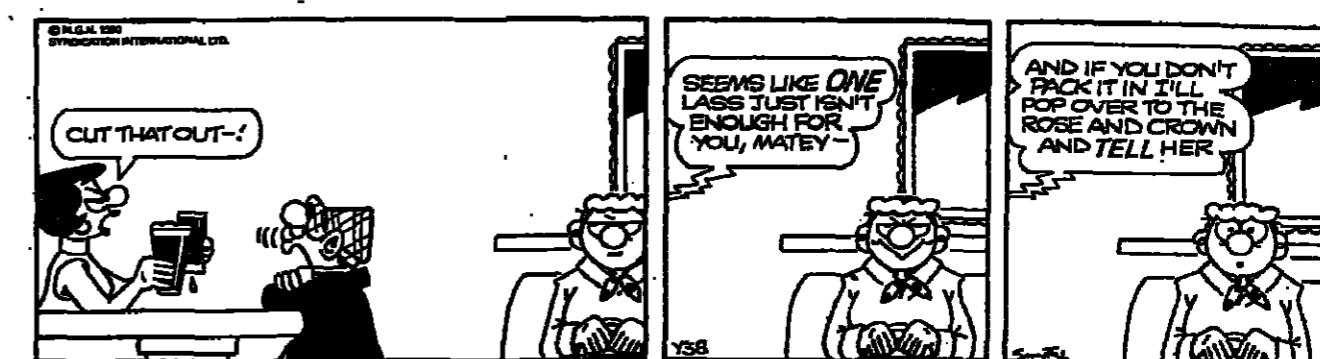
Legacy takes dialogue one step further by providing training in communication and conflict resolution. In the Summer Leadership Training programme, a selected group of youth spend six weeks in Bedford, Virginia, developing and sharpening their skills in cross-cultural relations. The programme has grown to include young people from other parts of the world, such as Egypt, India, Pakistan, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Yemen, Nicaragua, Honduras, Ireland, and Cambodia.

An extension of this programme is the summer tour, in which Legacy selects a Palestinian Arab and an Israeli youth to meet with students and religious communities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The tour is sponsored by an interfaith planning committee, led by the Presbyterian Church.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



OUT OF FOCUS

'Secrets' and 'scoops'

By Adnan Aqil Saad

THE OTHER DAY, I was exchanging notes with a friend of mine, who claimed he had "all there is to know" about the Lower House's "secret" debate on corruption and financial mismanagement. "Well, it seems that we are in for exciting times ahead," he said. "A lot of dirty linen is going to be washed in public," he added, tapping a little notebook.

I couldn't agree with him more. But did he really have that much information on what went on behind that closed doors of Parliament? "Of course, I do," he said. "I have it from the horse's mouth."

Good, I told him, but could he graciously enough to share some of the information? "No," came the sharp reply. "It is privileged information, you know. And I don't want to jeopardise my sources."

Who were his sources anyway? I asked. "I can only tell you this: it is someone who attended the session," he said. Well, the term "someone" narrows it down to one "source" rather than "sources," I pointed out to him. "Of course, I cross-checked it with others," he hastily added.

Was it a deputy? I was simply curious. "There were also others who attended the session; you know who I am talking about — ministers and Parliament staff. It could have been any one of them," he snarked.

But did he use the information and write something? "It's for me to know and for you to guess," he beamed.

It was his funeral, I told him, particularly that the House was spook over "leaked" information about the session. He could be called to testify before the House committee in charge of probing the leak, I reminded him.

"Who says I could be called?" he interjected, a tiny trace of panic creeping into his voice. He had nothing to fear, I tried to assure him. "It's only a routine; all they want is to put you to a test whether you will reveal your sources or not," I told him. "In fact, it is a test of your professional ethics rather than a bid to locate the leak," I added.

"Are you sure?" he was anxious now. I said nothing was sure anymore, and for all I know, they could start prosecuting journalists for doing their job.

"Prosecution?" There was no mistaking the trembling in his voice now. "I could be in real trouble." He was about to break down.

Why was he panicking, I asked. Did he file a "scoop" story for anyone that could be traced back?

"That's not the point," he wailed. "But I have been telling many people I have all the 'privileged' information, down to the last detail."

What was wrong with that? I asked. "Well, half the town now believes that I know everything there is to know about the secret session," he said on the verge of sobbing. "It will only be a matter of time before the deputies get to me."

I said I could only offer my sympathy, but he should be proud that he was only doing his job.

"Can I ask you a favour?" he looked at me intently. Of course, I said.

"Forget we had this conversation," he pleaded. I could not do that, I told him; unless of course he takes me into his confidence and spills the entire thing.

He looked around furtively, edged closer to me and whispered: "All my information was picked up from the local press and the news agencies. No one talked to me, I had no source. None of the deputies in the House even knows I exist."

Deaf and dumb latest tools for drug smugglers

By Issam Hamza
Reuters

DAMASCUS — Drug traffickers in Syria, facing stepped up vigilance from police, have thought up a new ploy — using deaf and dumb people to smuggle in their narcotics.

Six deaf mutes have recently been caught trying to bring in hashish from neighbouring Lebanon, police told Reuters. They were questioned through an expert from a medical centre who knew their sign language.

"The purpose (of using handicapped smugglers) is to divert attention from them and to make it difficult for investigators to discover the real smugglers who are using them," said Colonel Ali Darbooli, chief of Syria's anti-

narcotics bureau.

He said that although no drugs originated in Syria, smugglers used the country as a transit point to Western and other consumer countries.

Diplomats said hashish arrived mainly from Lebanon and heroin from Turkey.

As part of tougher steps to fight traffickers Damascus was cooperating closely with other countries, Darbooli said. "We foiled several smuggling attempts through coordination with countries like Jordan, Saudi Arabia and West Germany."

Interior Minister Mohammad Harba stressed his determination to halt the flow of drugs in talks in December with U.S. Ambassador to Syria Edward Djerejian, Darbooli added.

Peace of mind missing from 'Home of Peace'

By Nur Setti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If one is old and sane, there is a chance of him or her turning crazy if admitted to the Home of Peace at Tla Al Ali.

Here, the same and the insane are crammed 10 to a room, dimly lit, both from lack of electricity and because the rooms have been built so that other parts of the building surround the bedrooms and poorly heated, with bare blue-coloured walls and no carpets so that even a little bit of heat would be conquered by the coldness of the atmosphere.

Over and above everything else is a strong sense of despair among the residents of the home, but it has very little to do with the running of the place.

As one enters through the main door of the building, the first impression is of a relatively clean and spacious place.

But the feeling is soon drowned with the echoes of moans coming from who-knows-where.

Eight bedrooms — four each for men and women — are situated along a blue corridor.

Each bedroom is perhaps only big enough for six beds. Yet, an average of 10 beds are squeezed together, giving it a boarding school look.

Benches along the wall are filled with old men, each keeping to their own, sitting quietly, moaning meaningless words or jumping enthusiastically to greet the outsider.

For an average mind, the scene is not without a tinge of fear.

However, the fear is dispelled soon.

"It is so nice of you to visit us," says an old man with shabby clothes and a terrible stench, his face lighting up with a big smile.

Why is such pleasant and normal man here? "Imagine," he replied, "my sons and daughters did not want an old and helpless man like me. They threw me out and brought me here. They were embarrassed to be near me. They never visit or ask about me."

"But I am so grateful to people at the Home of Peace; they really love and take care of us," he adds, gratitude replacing resentment over his family's behaviour.

"If we do not take them in,

Mitsubishi are not hot sellers and Panasonic has dropped out of the market.

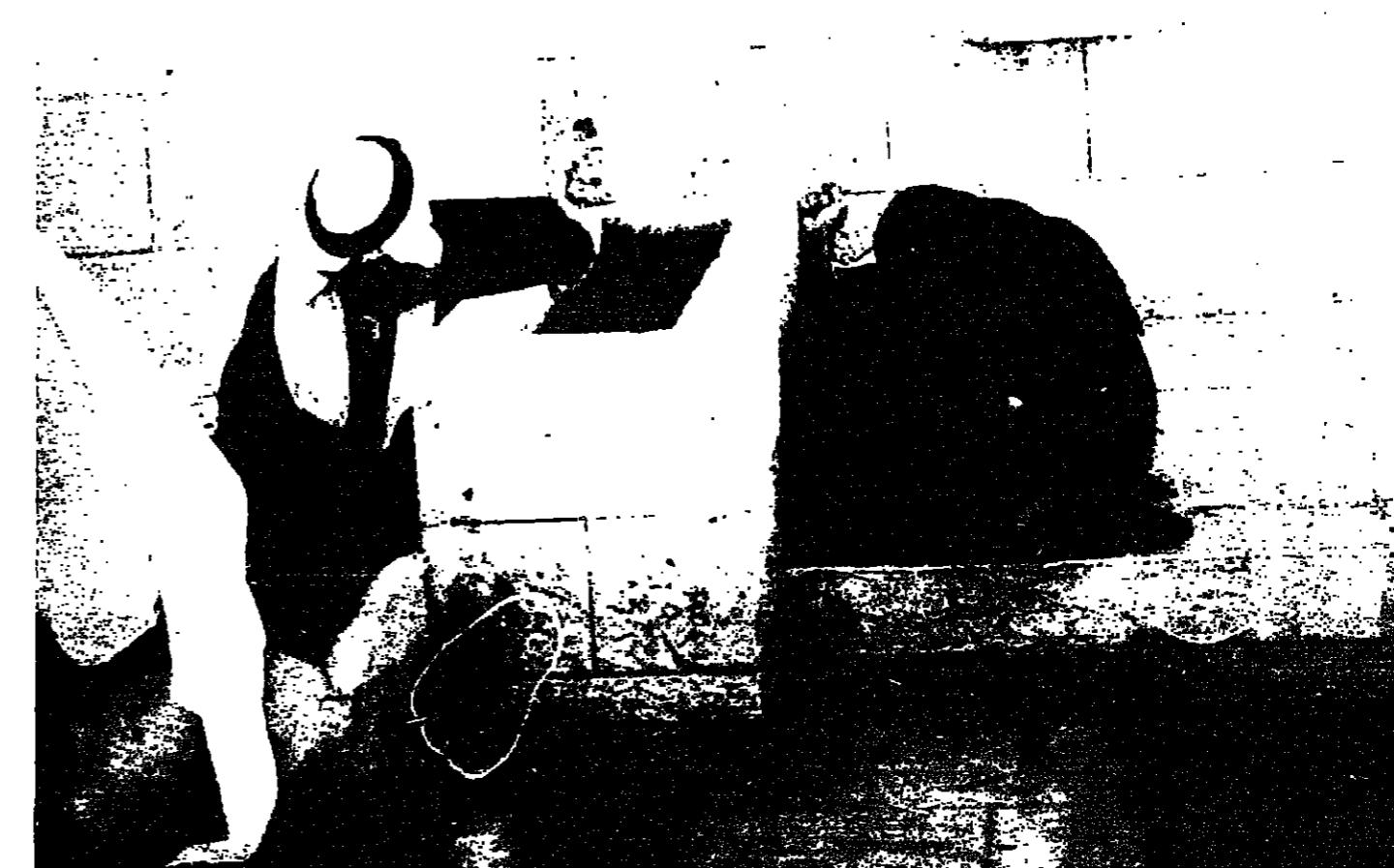
PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island — During the 1964 world's fair in New York American Telephone and Telegraph Company predicted that within a few years people would be able to see the person they were talking to on the telephone.

But like other optimistic predictions in recent decades — underwater communities, routine space travel, personal helicopters and robot housekeepers — the picturephone is yet another example of how the future takes longer to arrive than we expect.

In 1987 three Japanese companies began actively selling such devices in the United States. But the products made by Sony and

Another problem is price. A

JPL 12-15-89



Abandoned, uncared-for old people often end up in the street. One of the refugees available to them is the Home of Peace, where, at least

they will end up in the streets. What can we do?" Father Adeli asks. "We do not even have the money to make extra space to separate the normal from the retarded."

According to one of the eight sisters who look after the patients, "no one comes to visit them. Occasionally people bring mansaf, clothing or money, but these lonely people are human. They need attention. They need care and people to be with them all the time." At Christmas or Easter time, children from a nearby school pay a visit. Otherwise, the elderly see the same faces every day.

One day is no different from another at the home; which can ill-afford to offer any activity to its inmates except for three meals in a dining room at the end of the corridor with several tables and a kitchen at the back. Here they have their first meal at seven thirty in the morning — some milk, tea, olives and cheese. Another

meal at midday consists of meat, cucumbers and tomatoes. And the third meal at five o'clock, usually soup, rice and a sandwich. Six is bed time.

"Activities" in between the meals involve sitting on the benches, or walking along the corridor. Once a week the barber comes. Once a week the inmates get a bath and occasionally they get visitors. "They do not have any activities such as playing cards, watching television or going on daily trips," one of the sisters said.

This is an old persons home, where they will spend the last moments of their life — unwanted, lonely and miserable. On top of which they have to bear the ugly atmosphere with an unbearable stench of an overcrowded room.

"No other institution will accept them or no other charity organisation gives sufficient money for the elderly to live decently," the sister said.

"We do not even have

enough medicine," she said. "We had to treat the patients with our own little knowledge, until Dr. Sarhan came."

According to Father Adeli, there are over 100 young paralysed or handicapped children waiting to be admitted to the Home of Peace. Additionally, there are over 10 elderly on the waiting list.

The Home of Peace survives and takes care of its people through donations. But, it is still not enough, according to Father Adeli. "There is barely sufficient heating, water and electricity," he said. "Although there are volunteers, they are not enough to provide money, equipment, clothes and transportation for daily trips."

But according to several volunteers, the Home of Peace is doing a miraculous job considering they are fighting against great odds. The institution seems to have taken the role of "home of all traits."

in whatever condition they are," she said.

But that is not how today's picturephones operate.

When one picturephone owner calls another, the tiny TV camera in the machine takes a picture of the caller, which appears at the other end on a 10-cm monitor.

Callers can change from their bathrobe, comb their hair, put a nice smile on their face and then push a button to "freeze" the image on the screen.

If the caller does not like that snapshot, another one can be taken.

Then "send" button is pushed to transmit the picture to the person they are calling.

The transmission takes up to 10 seconds and no one can talk over the line while the picture is being

"It's the same principle as a fax machine," said Lauterback. "(The image) is not what you'd call high resolution."

But a range of people aside from parents and grandparents have begun experimenting with its usefulness, according to Mitsubishi.

The company said its picturephones have been used to send drivers licence photos between law enforcement agencies and to monitor criminals confined to their homes as part of their penalty.

What happened to the picturephone envisioned by AT&T at the 1964 world's fair? The company decided there was not much of a future for it and never developed the device.

Picturephones — much ado about very little

By Gene Kinney
Reuters

Sony face-to-face costs \$500 and Mitsubishi's Visitel retails for \$400.

Furthermore, unless the person on the other end of the line also has a picturephone, the caller's device is useless.

"Ultimately we would want a motion, colour transmission," Lauterback said.

Although using a picturephone does not increase the price of a long-distance phone call, it still be an expensive way to communicate, said Lauterback.

"I can put a lot of pictures in an envelope (and mail it) for the cost of sending a low-resolution transmission over the phone."

One industry observer said the public may not be buying picturephones because they do not understand how they work.

"They think that when someone calls, the person on the other end of the line will see them

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EC may propose cancellation of some Third World debt

SUVA, Fiji (R) — European Community (EC) Development Commissioner Manuel Marin may propose that the EC cancel up to 1.8 billion European Currency Units (\$2.2 billion) of Third World debt, EC diplomats said Tuesday.

Marin, who has said he favours an EC initiative on debt, could make the proposal when EC ministers meet their counterparts in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of developing countries.

The two-day meeting starts Wednesday.

The ACP states owe the EC the money under the Lome trade and aid convention, mostly in the form of development loans and unpaid contributions to the Stabex system of compensation for falling commodity prices.

"Marin may say the commission (the EC's executive body) proposes to cancel these debts," one diplomat said.

Of the 12 EC member states who would have to approve any such proposal, Britain for one was not in favour of letting ACP states off their debts, the diplomats said.

"There is a general recognition that the money is not going to be paid back anyway," one said.

Forgiveness of the Community debt would be little more than a drop in the ocean for African ACP states, who owe some \$200 billion in all.

They want the EC to discuss the much bigger debts between member states and individual developing countries, but the EC

says these are bilateral matters which fall outside its competence.

"Debt is not an issue that can be wished away. This is a matter which needs to be given serious consideration," Kenya's Planning Minister Zachary Onyoka told Reuters.

"Bilateral debt and debt with the Community are inter-related. You're dealing with the same people and essentially with the same problem," Onyoka said. "Trying to put it into two compartments doesn't help."

Developing nations borrowed heavily in the 1970s to invest in commodities production. But subsequent falls in commodity prices and rising interest rates have left them with no way of paying off these loans.

The Third World is currently a gross exporter of capital, giving developed nations more in interest payments each year than it receives in new aid.

"We appreciate the bilateral efforts that some EC countries have made, but in some parts of Africa the situation is going from bad to worse," Onyoka said.

Meanwhile, the world's poorest nations, fearing the convention alone could help countries out of trouble, it was only a catalyst," Berhane said.

"We always said private investment and bilateral development assistance would have to come in order to allow the convention to play a more important role," he added.

The ACP states will receive 12 billion European Currency Units (ECUs) (some \$14.4 billion) over

the first five years of the current convention, which runs until the year 2000 — 3.5 billion ECUs (\$4.2 billion) less than they had asked for.

Of this, 1.15 billion ECUs have been earmarked for a special fund to ease social problems in countries taking the strong medicine of economic reform recommended by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The two sides will discuss the impact of the EC's drive towards a single internal market on trade advantages granted to ACP states under the Lome pact.

The Community, anxious to protect its own producers, says it made big sacrifices under Lome IV in facilitating access for a range of ACP agricultural products to the EC market.

But the ACP countries say the concessions, which cover some 20 products and still involve quotas and other restrictions, concern only a tiny proportion of their exports.

"The preferential treatment which used to be afforded has been eroded," Berhane conceded.

Marin told a news conference Monday that ACP countries could best counter the threat of resources and investment draining to Eastern Europe and elsewhere by becoming more competitive themselves.

"The ACP side has to offer a better platform to the international investor than the East can do," he said.

Algeria opens door to foreign investment

ALGIERS (R) — Socialist-ruled Algeria offered foreign investors unprecedented freedom Monday under a revolutionary finance law designed to help pull the country out of economic crisis.

The North African state's National Assembly approved the draft law on money and credit with only minor amendments, a journalist from the Algerian news agency APS said.

Previously, foreign investment was allowed only within the framework of joint ventures 51 per cent owned by Algerian state firms.

Algerian television quoted the head of the parliament's finance commission as saying the law would "allow the transfer of capital and its reinvestment."

As presented to parliament, the law for the first time would permit foreign banks and finance institutions to open branches in the country, which has generally eyed foreign capital with suspicion since winning independence from France in 1962.

Oil and gas revenues, the main hard currency earners, plunged in the early 1980s, leaving Algeria with mounting foreign debt and stagnant public sector industries.

Economy Minister Ghazi Hocine said it was essential for

state firms to seek out foreign partners to boost exports.

The new law puts a powerful council of money and credit in charge of foreign capital movements and allows direct investments that create jobs and transfer technology in sectors not reserved for the state.

The law provided for the setting up of the country's first bond market which would reinforce public sector debt.

It also sought to reinforce the powers of the central bank, traditionally a tool of the treasury, and to promote "the creation of flexible new mechanisms aimed at economic recovery," the parliamentary finance commission chief told television.

Brazil becomes too expensive

KIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A new economic plan designed to wipe out soaring inflation has created hardships for those usually immune to Brazil's economic woes — expatriates and tourists.

In the past the dollar was king in Brazil and those having dollars found Brazil to be a shopper's paradise. New economic policies, however, have sent the dollar plunging.

Before March 16, the dollar bought 80 cruzeiros, but the government froze more than \$100 billion worth of bank account holdings. The cruzeiro is now in short supply and the dollar only buys 35.

"Brazil has become too expensive. It's a nightmare for tourists," said an American pilot with American Trans Air. "I was here only a few weeks ago but with the dollar so weak now, prices have tripled."

The cruzeiro is now the strongest currency in the world," said Japanese tourist O. Shimizu. He was staying at Rio's luxurious Copacabana Palace Hotel, which was offering to change dollars for 35 cruzeiros per dollar.

Cajia Raymond, a tourist from West Germany, said he paid 19,000 cruzeiros a night at the Sao Paulo Hilton, which at the exchange rate he received was equal to \$475 at 40 cruzeiros per the dollar.

"For my first four days in Brazil I didn't have any money because no one wanted to sell cruzeiros," he said.

Many tourists are finding Brazil too expensive to visit. French tourists Gerard Moust and

Corinne Pasquier said they may cut short their 10-day trip in Brazil.

"In France everyone told us Brazil was cheap but we can't afford to buy anything," said Pasquier.

She said they are forced to eat many of their meals in the hotel, The Hotel Meridien, because many restaurants will not accept credit cards.

Jacqueline Hoffman, director of public relations at the Meridien, said the hotel does not have enough cruzeiros to change more for its guests.

With a little effort, cruzeiros can be found, but with variations in rates. On the same block three exchange houses offered rates varying from 35 to 45 cruzeiros. A taxi driver offered his passenger 50 cruzeiros for each dollar.

Those wanting to change other currencies may be out of luck as most exchange houses are accepting only dollars.

A Belgian photographer living in Brazil said he found no one who would change the Belgian francs he earns. In the end he went to Paraguay to change money, he said. Foreigners who live in Brazil and earn dollars also face hard times.

"I cut my spending right off," said Australian William Frogley, who has lived in Brazil for 17 years. "Until the dollar goes up I won't spend any money," he said.

Con Steens, a Canadian living in Brazil for five years, receives his salary in cruzeiros. But he said he always converts prices into dollars to see whether an item is expensive or not. "No everything is expensive," he said.

Japan seen unable to stop falling yen

TOKYO (R) — Japan's financial authorities, once viewed as near God-like in their ability to manage economic affairs, may have to watch helplessly as the country's currency falls further in coming months.

Foreign exchange traders here say that after years of confidence in the yen, Japanese institutional investors are turning against the currency and increasing U.S. dollar buying.

The basic trend is downward for the yen," said Masafumi Koyama, chief corporate trader at the Bank of Tokyo. "The whole image of Japan is shrinking."

The yen closed at 156.96 to the dollar on Tuesday in Tokyo.

Koyama and other dealers say although a short technical correction is likely, the yen should fall to around 160 to the dollar by the end of next month. From there, many say the yen is headed to 165 by the beginning of summer.

"Japanese investors are totally bullish on the dollar right now," said Ichiro Ikeda in the corporate sales department at Goldman Sachs (Japan).

The Bank of Japan (BOJ) has attempted to defend the yen by selling dollars but has stretched its foreign reserves by unloading an estimated \$12 billion so far this year.

Dealers estimate the reserves now total about \$70 billion, leaving the central bank about \$10 billion to use in market intervention before reserves are so low that ministry of finance officials pressure the bank into changing strategies.

"If the BOJ uses that \$10 billion now, they will have nothing

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1990

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Changes, changes and more changes are the order of the day and it is up to you to handle these in an intelligent manner so that you won't have separations from loved ones or associates.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have considerable resources and ingenuity now by which you will be able to make headway with whatever promises you have made.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take time out to reciprocate to your associates the things you can do with them in harmonious accord that will make your dreams come true.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You like to know all factors of whatever demands your attention at your usual occupation and that is the day when they are obvious, can be utilised by you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 18) By considering more closely what any close companions derive from their association with you, you will be able to please and make stronger allies.

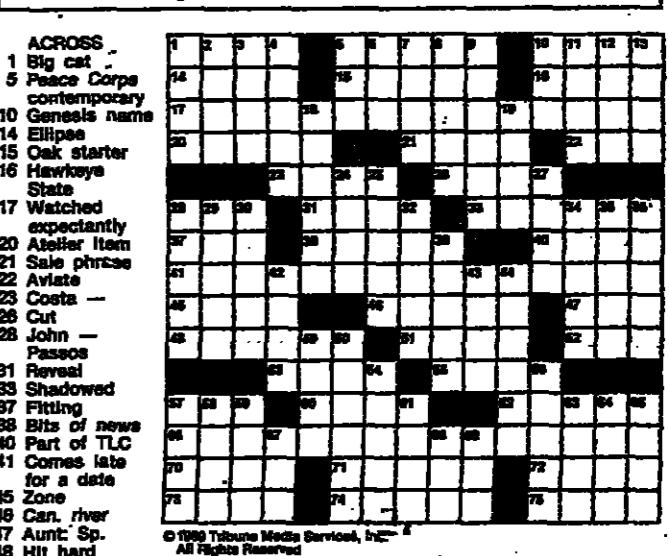
MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your best results today will follow getting off alone or with a confident and talking out private ways and means to enhance your success.

LIBRA: (July 22 to August 21) Being in touch with a number of friends outlining what you have in mind of a festive nature can bring them closer to you and also more enjoyable times.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Think over how you can get the good will of one in power by showing your quick mind and analytical talent and you can further your public image.

LEO: (September 22 to October 22) Yesterday's child if your child was born today he or she will be a fascinating youngster who will be delighted being at the centre of any social service organisation that caters to those who are unfortunate or in a scientific vocation where some phase of humanitarian helpfulness to others, is an integral part of the duty and obligation.

THE Daily Crossword



World opinion split on halves vs. quarters

ZURICH (AP) — The revolutionary proposal to split a soccer match into quarters instead of halves has so far only succeeded in splitting opinion in the world.

World Cup nations only agreed on one thing — the plan will not be in place for the 1994 edition in the United States when an increase in breaks could mean millions of dollars more in advertising revenue.

Out of the blue last month, FIFA President Joao Havelange called for 25-minute quarters instead of the traditional 45-minute halves to create a bigger financial bonanza at the world's biggest sporting event.

Initial shock has made way for more contemplative reaction as even some opponents of the idea say it is worth studying.

Havelange's proposal flies in the face of soccer's hallowed principle of conservatism in rules and regulations, and shook the guardians of that tradition.

Northern Irelands Harry Cavan, an older FIFA statesman and chairman of the technical committee, found the idea so outlandish that he was not terribly sure Havelange made the suggestion.

"Dr. Havelange should know it is a law of the game that is extremely difficult to change," he said at a FIFA World Cup preparatory meeting last weekend.

"For him, soccer rules dating back a century do not budge for financial considerations."

Soviet coach Valery Lobanowski agreed. "Havelange thought a bit too much about TV companies and advertising," he said. "You just cannot destroy the rules of the game," he said.

Bobby Robson, the coach of England, the cradle of the game, also said it would be breaking with great tradition. "The current rules are good principles."

"Two times 45 minutes has existed for a century. You don't need to change this," said West Germany's coach Franz Beckenbauer.



Maradona in action

Maradona ready for World Cup

ARGENTINE captain Diego Maradona, an inspirational figure in Napoli's 3-1 defeat of Juventus, declared afterwards he was fitter and better prepared for this year's World Cup finals than in Mexico four years ago.

Scoring critics who say his days of footballing genius are over, Maradona said: "Do you want to know the truth? I'm better than in 1986."

"My weight's better, not to mention my will to play. If I need to spell it out, I'm aiming to have another great World Cup."

Maradona's two goals Sunday were eloquent testimony to his claims that he has rediscovered his old touch and sharpness — his second was a perfectly flighted free-kick from five metres outside the penalty area.

Now his desire to lead Argentina to a second successive World Cup crown appears to be rekindled.

"To have a great World Cup, I need first to have a great end to the championship," he said.

Napoli still trail Italian league leaders AC Milan by a point and the European champions look to have overcome their recent loss of form. After trailing to an early

goal Sunday, Milan brushed aside Lecce 2-1.

Their rally was due largely to captain Franco Baresi's first goal of the season which levelled the scores by halftime.

"We heard in the interval that Napoli were ahead of Juve. Like a spring it triggered off inside us the will to beat Lecce," Baresi said afterwards.

Dutch striker Marco Van Basten, who scored his 19th league goal and the winner 12 minutes into the second half, said Milan had found their touch again.

"While we don't expect Napoli to give up the fight, we are once again the Milan of the good times... sharp, dedicated, ready to strike. We've got over our tiredness."

Italian fans were treated to a goal fest Sunday with 35 in nine games — a tally last equalled May 22, 1960.

Internazionale and Roma led the way with wins of 7-2 and 5-2 over Atalanta and Verona respectively.

It was still short of the all-time record of 42 goals in the 1930-31 championships.

In West Germany, however, only 11 goals were scored in nine games — the lowest number in Bundesliga history.

That only added to the misery of fans who fear more of their leading players will be heading south, lured by the riches of the Italian league.

Five of Franz Beckenbauer's World Cup line-up already play in Italy and Bayern Munich's Stefan Reuter and Cologne's Thomas Haesler hear the Italians' shopping list.

Despite a goalless draw at Bochum, European Cup semi-finalists Bayern Munich stretched their lead to three points at the top after Eintracht Frankfurt lost 3-0 to Bayer Leverkusen.

Goals were also the main focus of the Spanish league where champions-elect Real Madrid took a decisive step towards breaking Barcelona's goalscoring record with a 5-2 win against Tenerife.

Real, nine points ahead of second-placed Atletico Madrid and Valencia, need six more goals from seven games to equal the league record of 96 set in 1959.

Argentina attempts to end goal famine

GLASGOW (R) — Argentina, with time running out before the World Cup in June, are anxiously hoping they can solve their goalscoring problems in Wednesday's friendly against Scotland.

The world champions, who have not scored in their last eight matches stretching back to July, will be without their inspirational Captain Diego Maradona who is fulfilling an advertising contract in Japan.

Although a 0-0 draw with World Cup hosts Italy in Sardinia in December was seen as a good result, manager Carlos Bilardo recognises his side need to find their scoring touch against Scotland.

"This game is vitally important to us. We are always under pressure as world champions and there is so little time left before the World Cup. Every game is significant," he said.

Bilardo, who managed the victorious side in Mexico four years ago, is pinning his hopes on new wing sensation Claudio Camiglia, a lightning fast striker and the man who scored Argentina's last international goal — in the South American Championship nine months ago.

Camiglia, 23, has scored five goals for Argentina and is returning to top form for Atalanta after a mixed first season in Italian football with Verona clouded by a broken leg that put him out for four months.

Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh, also seeking a reliable source of goals, continues to experiment with his line-up and is giving several uncapped players an opportunity to stake a World Cup place.

His successful striking partnership of Glasgow Rangers pair Ally McCoist and Mo Johnston, who have suffered a loss of form recently, are dropped to the substitutes' bench to make way for Alan McInally and debutant Robert Fleck.

Fleck has scored 12 times for Norwich in the English first Division this season, while McInally has scored nine goals for West German league leaders Bayern Munich.

"I have no compunction about starting both of them," said Roxburgh.

"I would certainly rather do it now than against Costa Rica in our opening World Cup game. We need to know what they can do long before then."

"This match and next month's game against East Germany are all about learning."

Alex McLeish takes over the captaincy with Roy Aitken also relegated to the bench, while Everton midfielder Stuart McCall and Hearts defender Craig Levein make their debuts.

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Spain faces Austrian fire in World Cup warm-up

MALAGA, SPAIN (R) — Prolific Austrian strikers Anton Polster and Gerhard Rodax will test Spain's defence in a soccer friendly between two World Cup finalists Wednesday.

Polster has plenty of experience of football in Spain as Sevilla's leading marksman, while Rodax has attracted the interest of several Spanish clubs.

Spanish team chief Luis Suarez is well aware of the perils posed by Austria. "Their play is based on a good defence with two very dangerous points, one of which is Polster," he said. "And they are very dangerous on the counter-attack."

Austria have been badly hit by the absence of offensive midfielder Andreas Herzog, who sustained an injury last weekend and was ruled out of the Spain match.

"This has been a hard blow to the squad and I shall have to rethink my tactics," Austrian team chief Josef Hicklersberger said.

Andreas Reisinger stands in for Herzog, while sweeper Ernst Aigner may be dropped after a poor game last weekend.

Hicklersberger will probably organise his defence round Robert Pecl, whom he rates as Austria's best defender.

The absence of Luis Milla from the Spanish squad has prompted the Spanish press to speculate that the Barcelona midfielder may have lost his World Cup place.

A more likely explanation is

that Milla, who played in Spain's last three internationals, is unfit after missing recent Barcelona games over a pay dispute with coach Johan Cruyff.

Suarez rejected press speculation about Milla, "the fact that he's not playing momentarily does not mean he's excluded," he said.

Sevilla midfielder Raft Paz replaces Valencia's Fernando Gomez who plays for Spain's under-21 team against Italy Thursday.

Suarez has also called up Valencia defender Quique Sanchez and recalled Gijon goalkeeper Juan Ablanedo to the squad as back-up for first choice Andoni Zubizarreta.

'Frenchie' faces 1st big test

DEAUVILLE (R) — The great white hope of French boxing, Christophe Tiozzo, faces his moment of truth Friday when he fights for a world title for the first time.

Despite an immaculate 25-0 record and a recent listing in the World Boxing Council rankings as official challenger for Sugar Ray Leonard's world super-middleweight title, Tiozzo still feels that American fight circles regard him merely as "smart little Frenchie."

Standing between him and the chance to earn the respect of the boxing fraternity is South Korea's Baek In-Chul, holder of the World Boxing Association's super-middleweight title.

Tiozzo is oozing with confidence at the thought of Friday's fight in Lyon before rabid home fans who see in the 26-year-old Duran, the potential champion they have

been waiting and hoping for.

"I know I will probably not be able to stop him in the first few rounds," Tiozzo said after a sparing session in the chic Normandy seaside resort of Deauville where he has set up his training headquarters.

"I am fit enough to outpoint him but I think I can win the fight inside the distance, by the sixth or eighth rounds, maybe even before that."

"He is a dangerous fighter, with an impressive record (46 wins to two defeats with 42 victories inside the distance) but I know I can beat him."

If he can fulfil his own expectations Friday, Tiozzo will take a step towards the big time, though he is aware there would still be a long way to go.

"I would love to fight somebody like (Panama's Roberto) Duran," he said. "But people

like (top promoter) Bob Arum hardly know who I am. They know Tiozzo is a smart little Frenchie but that's about it."

"What I've got to do now is fight American boxers in the United States to get famous over there. We will need the backing of an American sponsor."

Tiozzo found his own way of sampling the fight scene on the other side of the Atlantic by spending six weeks in Miami for some strenuous workouts for his bout with Baek before heading for Deauville.

The highly popular Tiozzo, who always finds time for fans and the media, has been able to train in relaxed surroundings in Normandy. "I love it here. Everybody is so nice to me," he said. "I like to feel on holiday when I'm training."

He stopped American Frank Minton in eight rounds in

Deauville last July and would also like to have staged his world title fight in the resort's casino. But its 500-seat capacity ruled it out as absurdly small for France's fight of the year.

Instead, around 10,000 Tiozzo fans will pack Lyon's Palais Des Sports in the expectation of toasting a new French world champion.

The devaluation of world titles, now that 68 are available in the different weights of the four international governing bodies, will not lessen the celebrations should their man win.

Nor will it detract from an eventual victory in Tiozzo's own mind. "It's a pity (there are so many titles) but there's not much I can do about it," he said. "Some guys don't deserve their world titles but I know I will deserve mine. I will prove it."

Hi-tech media is off limits for soccer

ZURICH (AP) — High technology is well on its way to exposing even the tiniest refereeing errors at the World Cup, and the ruling body of world soccer is not amused.

A demonstration of computer technology at a Fifth Congress last weekend showed that refereeing nightmares like narrow off-side rulings and goal-line disputes can be judged up to a dozen centimetres, and Italian Rai television plans to provide viewers with plenty of examples during the month-long tournament.

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secretary Joseph Blatter. World Cup organisers have already barred the use of video replays on the stadium screens to protect its referees from the pent-up anger from the crowds.

"Soccer has always shielded away from using videotape in a match to check decisions and is so conservative in its rules and regulations it does not even want to use electronic timing."

The computerised telebeam system seems light years ahead of soccer rules.

In turns a simple television picture into computer graphics, then zips to an ideal perspective on a play and zooms in to pinpoint with minute precision whether a ball crossed the line or whether an attacker was standing level with a defender or centimetres behind him in an off-side dispute.

You cannot heat up the atmosphere against the referee, said FIFA general

secretary Joseph Blatter.

For a record-tying fourth time, Butcher won the iditarod trail sled dog race, which commemorates the historic 1925 relay of diphtheria serum to the dying gold miners of Nome.

"I do love it," she said, "the dogs, the wilderness, the lifestyle."

Butcher broke her 1987 record time of 10 minutes when she finished March 14 in 11 days, 1 hour, 53 minutes and 23 seconds, averaging more than 241 kilometres and less than an hour

sleep each day.

"Physically, you're working very hard, in extreme temperatures and deprived of sleep," Butcher said. "Yes, I think this could be the most demanding event in sports."

"Perhaps more than any other travel, sleep deprivation poses the gravest danger to mushers."

You don't even realise what's happening to you until someone else sees you," she said. "Or, when you reach one of the check-

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World News

Violence jolts S.Africa's delicate peace process

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Bloodshed in the black township of Sebokeng clouded South Africa's delicate peace process, with some anti-apartheid campaigners saying Tuesday the killings undermined President F.W. de Klerk's promises of reform.

The Vaal Civic Association, an anti-apartheid group that represents residents of nine townships south of Johannesburg including Sebokeng, said between 13 and 17 people were killed and 280 wounded, 30 seriously, when police fired on thousands of peaceful black demonstrators Monday.

Police said five people were killed and 130 injured when officers opened fire in self-defence on 50,000 militant blacks armed with an assortment of sticks and stones, bottles and iron pipes who attacked officers and went on a looting spree.

Sebokeng's hospital counted eight killed in the clashes.

Black groups looking forward to the start next month of groundbreaking talks between De Klerk and the main opposition organisation, the African National Congress (ANC), expressed dismay at the incident.

"Obviously our reaction is one of outrage," said Murphy Morobe, a spokesman for the United Democratic Front (UDF), a coalition of organisations allied to the ANC.

"Such events do not conform to the public pronouncements of the white leadership. They proclaim freedom publicly but they want to retain the control they have always kept through the

machinery of apartheid," he said.

The civil rights watchdog organisation Detainees Aid Centre said its figures for casualties in Sebokeng matched those of the Vaal Association.

Spokeswoman Audrey Coleman said the group knew of at least 400 blacks killed by police in similar situations involving political protest since De Klerk told parliament on Feb. 2 he was lifting restrictions on the ANC and other opposition groups.

She said the incidence of detention without trial under the tough emergency laws had also risen since the turn of the year.

"We absolutely condemn what is happening," Coleman said. "This was a peaceful march by people accepting De Klerk's word that they have a right to articulate their grievances. Then police opened fire without warning. The people were sitting ducks."

"De Klerk must get his police under control."

Government officials denied police provoked the marchers and said officers had been asked to act with restraint.

Reuters correspondent Rich Mkhondo reported from Sebokeng Tuesday morning that the township was tense but quiet with most people having returned to work. Schools were closed.

An official of the Vaal Civic Association, who preferred his safety not to be identified, blamed the police and government for the "massacre" after residents had collected to protest against high rents and racial segregation.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Poles seek compensation from Germany

WARSAW (R) — Polish World War II victims protested Tuesday against German demands for Poland to renounce claims for war reparations and said Germany should pay "dignified and just compensation." The association of Poles harmed by the German Third Reich, which is preparing a compensation claim for more than a million Poles who did slave labour in Nazi Germany, said the German proposals offended international law and morality. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl asked Poland last month to confirm a 1956 decision to renounce reparations in exchange for formal German confirmation of Poland's borders which include pre-war German territories. The Polish government refused to link the two issues. It did not make clear if it would press for state-to-state reparations but has said it will support any justified claim the association makes. The association made clear it would press ahead with its demands. "We continue to consider dignified and just compensation for those wronged by the Third Reich as an indispensable premise for real Polish-German reconciliation and construction of a just moral order in Europe," it said.

Angola: U.S. increasing aid to UNITA

LISBON (AP) — Angolan military officials have claimed the United States is increasing lethal aid to rebels fighting a 15-year civil war against the southern African country's Marxist government. Portugal's News Agency LUSA reported. According to army officials cited in a LUSA report Monday from the Angolan capital of Luanda, two shiploads of U.S. war material, destined for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) were unloaded early this month at a port in Angola's northern neighbour, Zaire. The report said Angolan secret service agents claimed the equipment arrived Feb. 27 at the Zairean port of Matadi in two freighters. The report said one of the ships was Israeli but did not give the nationality of the second.

China expels 33,400 from party

PEKING (AP) — China's Communist Party expelled 33,400 members in 1989 for offenses such as abuse of power or ideological shortcomings, the official party newspaper said Tuesday. "Party inspection offices investigated 197,400 cases of discipline violations within the party, and measures were taken against 158,800 members," the People's Daily said. The 48-million-member party called for a reappraisal of the credentials of all its members following the pro-democracy movement of last spring that gained considerable support from party members. After the movement was crushed last June, party leaders said those who had failed to pass the ideological tests of the counter-revolutionary rebellion would face expulsion or other disciplinary action. However, the People's Daily report did not give a breakdown of reasons for the expulsions, and the number was not greater than in past years.

Head of U.S. crime family indicted

BOSTON (R) — The reputed head of New England's biggest crime family and 20 other people have been indicted after a five-year probe that Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said Monday had plunged "a stake in the heart" of the mafia clan. Thornburgh, announcing three indictments containing 113 counts against 21 reputed organised crime members, also said law enforcement officials had for the first time secretly recorded an induction ceremony into a mafia crime family. Among those arrested in Monday-morning sweeps in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts was Raymond Patriarche Jr., the reputed head of the Providence, Rhode Island crime family which bears his name.

106 boat people return home

HONG KONG (AP) — More than 100 Vietnamese flew back to their Communist homeland Tuesday in the 15th batch of boat people to be voluntarily repatriated from Hong Kong under a United Nations-sponsored programme. The 106 who flew back to Hanoi aboard a chartered jet bring the number of Vietnamese flown back voluntarily in the past year to 1,362. Another 1,700 boat people detained in Hong Kong have offered to return under the programme, which the Vietnamese government has promised to speed up to handle about 1,000 returnees a month by May. About 55,000 Vietnamese are being held in prison-like camps in this British colony.

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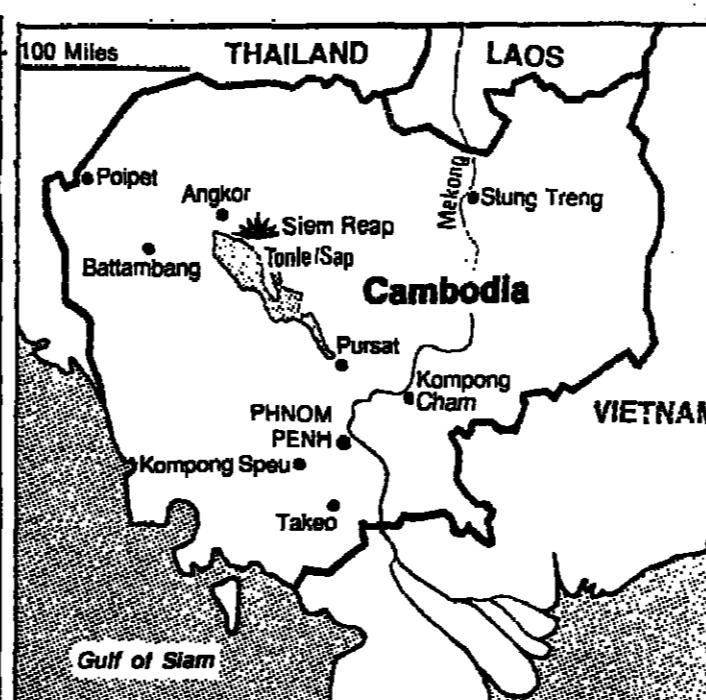
Welcomes customers
during all evenings of
the Holy Month of
Ramadan except Mondays.

Another Stalin-era mass grave found in Germany

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany said Tuesday it had discovered what appears to be a second secret mass grave of victims of Stalin's security police, just north of Berlin.

The East German News Agency (ADN) said workers had found human remains after excavations in woods near the town of Oranienburg, not far from a Nazi concentration camp which was converted into a Stalinist internment camp after World War II.

He also reiterated charges that Vietnamese soldiers remain in Cambodia despite Hanoi's much-publicised troop pullout last fall, and said 1 million Vietnamese settlers are in the country, in



Vietnam changed borders, annexed lands — Sihanouk

PEKING (AP) — Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk charged Tuesday that Vietnam has seized control of two Cambodian provinces and annexed several islands.

The most serious threat to the survival of Cambodia is the modification by Vietnam of the frontiers of Cambodia, Sihanouk said in a news conference.

Meanwhile, Thailand's army-run television station reported that Vietnam has proposed that Thailand and China join it in talks on settlement of the 11-year guerrilla war in Cambodia.

The Vietnamese government

made the proposal in talks in Hanoi Monday with Gen. Chavatir Yongsaiyudh, the first Thai army chief to visit Vietnam since the U.S.-Vietnam War, the television report said late Monday.

Chavatir, whose delegation included other senior officers as well as businessmen, met with Prime Minister Do Muoi, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and Defense Minister Gen. Le Duc Anh.

Thailand has backed a coalition of three guerrilla groups fighting the government led by Hun Sen that Vietnam installed in Cambodia after invading the country in late 1978.

On the border question, Sihanouk said Vietnam moved into the provinces of Ratnakiri and Monulkiri and onto several unidentified offshore islands with the consent of the Hanoi-backed Cambodian government.

He also reiterated charges that Vietnamese soldiers remain in

Cambodia despite Hanoi's much-publicised troop pullout last fall.

He returned to Peking this month because his mother-in-law has been hospitalised in the Chinese capital.

some places making the Cambodians an ethnic minority.

Many of the Vietnamese settlers moved to Cambodia to escape fighting during the Vietnam War.

Sihanouk, who resigned earlier this year as president of the three-party resistance coalition, said general elections were impossible until the Vietnamese settlers were removed.

Hun Sen's government gave them citizenship, but that is not acceptable to us. Hun Sen's actions are illegal, he said.

Sihanouk also repeated denials that his faction is cooperating with the Khmer Rouge faction of the coalition.

The Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands of people in an attempt at a Communist agrarian revolution when it ruled Cambodia before Vietnam's invasion in late 1978, and there is concern that the group would regain power if the Hun Sen government is dismantled.

"I am not pro-Khmer Rouge. I am not red, not even pink," Sihanouk said.

He said his forces and the Khmer Rouge occupy "neighboring territories in Cambodia and when we attack the same enemy, a common enemy, how can we avoid seeing each other?"

Sihanouk in late February returned to Cambodia after an 11-year exile. At the news conference in his Peking residence, he handed out a glossy brochure showing his quarters in one of Cambodia's liberated zones.

He returned to Peking this month because his mother-in-law has been hospitalised in the Chinese capital.

China believed to export new ballistic missiles

Chinese statement.

Witnesses saw two convoys carrying 26 missiles as well as launchers and other accessories moving through the outskirts of Peking over a three-day period since Saturday.

Chinese Defence Ministry officials told Reuters they were unaware of any missile sales.

Western military attaches said

shipments of the surface-to-surface developer's estimated \$5 billion fortune, but said she did not want a divorce even though he had abandoned and humiliated her. In the first legal papers to be filed in the headline-making marital battle of the Trumps, Mrs. Trump asked the New York State Supreme Court to declare invalid a 1987 that says she is only entitled to \$10 million in cash and property worth about \$10 million.

A 24-page complaint was filed with New York State Supreme Court against Trump, whose marital problems have been the talk of New York for the past month. In it, Mrs. Trump verbally abused and humiliated her to force her to submit to his demands. She says he abandoned her on Feb. 11. Trump has been linked with actress Maria Mapa but has not sought divorce or separation from his wife. He and

glamorous Czechoslovak-born Ivana enjoy celebrity status in New York. Mrs. Trump's lawyer Michael Kennedy told a news conference that the complaint is not asking for an actual monetary award, but rather the right to half

missiles were covered by the

Fighting intensifies after pact to dismantle contras

MANAGUA (AP) — Three days after the U.S.-backed contras signed an agreement to disband by mid-April, rebels are streaming into Nicaragua amid reports of intensified fighting.

International observers and witnesses say contra bases across the border from Nicaragua in Yamas, Honduras, are almost empty.

They have become ghost camps. There's just a few of them left there, said one international observer who spoke on condition

Journalists who visited the camps last week had similar reports.

The contra leader who negotiated the demobilisation pact, Oscar Sovalbarro, said 2,000 rebel fighters have returned since the accord was signed Friday.

The movement of rebel fighters into Nicaragua could undermine hopes raised by the accord, which establishes a demobilisation deadline only for the contras in Honduras.

In Miami, the top contra military commander, Israel Galeano, insisted the fighters in Nicaragua would not disband until the Sandinista army does.

"We are speaking of total demobilisation — that includes both ourselves and the Sandinistas," he said.

Sandinista leaders have said the party will not turn over control of the army to the new government unless the rebels disband.

In an attempt to give the show an international flavour, Jack Lemmon and Soviet actress Natasha Negoda were seen by satellite announcing the best foreign language film from Moscow. In a swirl round the world, stars were also seen in London, Sydney and Buenos Aires announcing awards.

Italy won the award for best foreign-language film for Cinema Paradiso, a nostalgic look at the 1940s through the eyes of a Sicilian cinema projectionist, played by Philippe Noyet, and a boy, Salvatore Cascio.

The award for best documentary went to Common Threads: Stories From the Quilt, about a quilt which bears the names of people who had died of AIDS.

Akira Kurosawa, director of such classic Japanese films as Ran and Rashomon was given a standing ovation when he was presented by filmmakers George Lucas and Steven Spielberg with the academy's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Stone off. But he could still hear them talking and the car going round sharp corners and braking hard. He guessed which suburb they were in, stopped the car and rang the police. Police gave chase and arrested the three when the car crashed over an embankment.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN	MAX	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	-01	30	11 52 Clear
ATHENS	10	50	24 76 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	15	54	34 76 Cloudy
BANGKOK	27	51	34 62 Cloudy
Buenos Aires	11	51	20 69 Cloudy
CARIO	14	57	28 70 Clear
CHICAGO	-01	31	04 42 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	-01	50	08 48 Clear
GENEVA	-01	57	08 48 Cloudy
HONG KONG	19	65	21 70 Clear
ISTANBUL	10	50	20 62 Clear
LONDON	05	41	10 50 Clear
LOS ANGELES	12	54	22 71 Cloudy
MADRID	04	39	08 49 Clear
MOSCOW	23	68	59 84 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-01	55	15 46 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	14	57	27 81 Cloudy
NEW YORK	02	38	43 66 Clear
PARIS	05	41	02 46 Cloudy
ROME	10	65	26 61 Rain
SYDNEY	19	68	26 74 Clear
VIENNA	05	41	14 57 Clear
	M		Indicates missing information.

COLUMN 10

Trump's wife seeks half his fortune

NEW YORK (R) — First Lady Donald Trump's wife Ivana has asked a court to declare her entitled to half of the real-estate developer's estimated \$5 billion fortune, but said she did not want a divorce even though he had abandoned and humiliated her. In the first legal papers to be filed in the headline-making marital battle of the Trumps, Mrs. Trump asked the New York State Supreme Court to declare invalid a 1987 that says she is only entitled to \$10 million in cash and property worth about \$10 million.

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with New York State Supreme Court against Trump, whose marital problems have been the talk of New York for the past month. In it, Mrs. Trump verbally abused and humiliated her to force her to submit to his demands.

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missiles were covered by the

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